United Nations A/C.5/64/SR.16

General Assembly
Sixty-fourth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
8 February 2010

Original: English

Fifth Committee

Summary record of the 16th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 24 November 2009, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Maurer ..... (Switzerland)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Ms. McLurg

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 131: Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 (*continued*)

Agenda item 132: Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 (*continued*)

Information and communications technology (A/64/7/Add.9, A/64/95 and Add.1, A/64/96 and Add.1, A/64/355, A/64/380, A/64/477 and A/64/531)

Business continuity management (A/64/7/Add.8 and A/64/472)

1. **Ms. Kane** (Under-Secretary-General for Management), introducing the first progress report on the enterprise resource planning (ERP) project and revised estimates under section 28A, Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management, of the proposed programme budget for 2010-2011, and under the peacekeeping support account (A/64/380), said that the General Assembly, in its resolution 63/262, had approved the amount of $20 million for the implementation of the ERP system and had requested the Secretary-General to submit an updated business case; an assessment of the organizational arrangements; options for a reduced ERP package at lower cost; and a revised implementation plan and updated budget. The report on Umoja (the name given to the ERP project) currently before the Assembly addressed those requests and advocated substantial change in the Organization's administrative and support services.

2. While several implementation options had been studied, a "pilot first" approach was recommended because it offered the lowest risk owing to its gradual rather than sudden operational impact. Umoja would be deployed to a group of pilot sites first and then to the rest of the Organization.

3. The resource requirements of $315.7 million included both project and start-up operational costs. It was estimated that $175.3 million would be required for 2010-2011, of which $24.1 million would be funded from the regular budget, while $114.1 million would be funded from the peacekeeping support account and $37.1 million from extrabudgetary resources, in line with the cost-sharing formula.

4. While there might be concern about the request for a budget increase in the current economic climate, the impact of not approving the resources for Umoja should also be kept in mind. Currently, 39,978 staff worked for the Organization, 23,158 of them in field operations. Missions and mandates had become more complex than had been anticipated a decade or two earlier, yet staff were still relying on fragmented systems and manual and paper-based processes. Legacy systems such as the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) were so highly customized that it was difficult to integrate them into new open technologies and modern distributed architectures. The cost of maintaining, operating and upgrading the system was high, and there was a risk that it would be unable to meet the Organization's evolving business requirements. In view of the new system's potential to yield quantitative and qualitative benefits, Member States should take advantage of the opportunity to make the most efficient use of their resources. If they truly wanted integrated administrative and management reform and a multi-skilled and mobile staff, then Umoja was the vehicle that could manage that change.

5. The Secretary-General's second progress report on the adoption of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) (A/64/355) presented the proposals on IPSAS synchronized with those on the Umoja project and set out an adjusted implementation timetable. The High-level Committee on Management had approved continuation of the jointly financed system-wide IPSAS project for 2010-2011 to support a harmonized approach to IPSAS policy development and to realize economies in the total cost of implementation. The World Food Programme had produced its first set of IPSAS-compliant financial statements as at 31 December 2009. Ten United Nations system organizations had committed to implementing IPSAS by 2010, while most other organizations planned to implement the standards in 2011-2012.

6. Seven online training courses and materials for 11 instructor-led training courses had been developed for use across United Nations system organizations. A joint briefing on IPSAS was planned for the first quarter of 2010 for New York-based organizations and their governing bodies; similar briefings were also being held in other locations.

7. Since Organization-wide deployment of Umoja was projected for the third quarter of 2013, it was proposed that the first full set of IPSAS-compliant financial statements should be issued for the year

ending 31 December 2014. For peacekeeping operations, IPSAS-compliant financial statements would be provided for the year ending 30 June 2014.

8. Introducing the revised estimates relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 under sections 2, 17, 18, 20, 21, 27, 28C, 28D, 28E, 28F, 28G, 29 and 36 related to business continuity management (A/64/472), she said that it was imperative to strengthen business continuity management to ensure the continuity of critical operations in the face of risks such as pandemics, localized disasters, technological failures and military or terrorist incidents.

9. Since its establishment in 2007, the Business Continuity Management Unit had helped departments and offices to identify critical processes and staff as well as the vital records and information and communications technology (ICT) applications linked to those processes. Despite the efforts already undertaken, much more was required to implement business continuity management. Critical measures included developing mitigation strategies detailing how departments would continue their critical business processes in the event of disruption; consolidating departmental business continuity plans and reviewing the interdependencies between departments; conducting business impact analyses to objectively validate the prioritization of business processes; coordinating planning among United Nations organizations located in New York; providing technical assistance for business continuity planning at offices away from Headquarters, regional commissions and peacekeeping operations; and training critical staff and ensuring accountability at all duty stations by testing business continuity plans regularly.

10. Under the ad hoc budgetary arrangement of the previous two and a half years, the first steps had been taken to establish minimum capacity for business continuity management in the Organization. Resources and staff deployments had been strictly temporary. As a result, the process itself was fragile and could not be sustained under such an arrangement beyond 2009. The proposed resource requirements of $9.7 million would institutionalize business continuity management. Concrete guidance from Member States would help determine whether the Secretariat could proceed with business continuity management.

11. **Mr. Choi** Soon-hong (Chief Information Technology Officer), introducing the report on the enterprise content management and customer relationship management systems and proposal for a unified disaster recovery and business continuity plan (A/64/477), said that the recently established Office of Information and Communications Technology had begun implementing the ICT management framework, which provided the ICT governance structure and established an investment review process for major ICT projects. As suggested by the Assembly, the governance approach had been simplified and the roles of the bodies involved had been clarified. A Client Services Unit had been set up to achieve a better understanding of the Secretariat's needs and priorities, while a Project Management Office would centralize and coordinate the evaluation of ICT investments and projects. Two rounds of the "Fast-Forward Programme" — which involved implementing practical ICT solutions for the Secretariat within a 90-day period — had been completed and another round would soon be launched. A structural review that would streamline and consolidate the use of ICT resources across the Secretariat was well under way. In short, the Secretariat's ICT strategy was being implemented energetically, with a focus on tangible results.

12. The Umoja project was driven by business process demands and would be delivered through complex information technology systems. While the initial focus had been on work process improvements, the Office had assisted in selecting the ERP software and had completed an initial inventory of information systems. As the project proceeded, the Office would help ensure good technical planning and proactive engagement.

13. The Secretary-General's report (A/64/477) covered three other high-priority efforts: enterprise content management, which was part of the knowledge management programme; customer relationship management, which was part of the resource management programme; and disaster recovery and business continuity, which was part of the infrastructure management programme. Enterprise content management could revolutionize the way the United Nations conducted its substantive activities by improving its use of the vast amounts of information and knowledge that supported those activities. It would allow the Secretariat to create, manage, share, disseminate and preserve information and knowledge

efficiently, thereby making the Organization more responsive, agile and productive.

14. Customer relationship management — where "customer" referred to any person or entity that had a relationship with the Organization, including staff, Member States, other agencies, non-governmental organizations and vendors — would provide a common system for global management and provision of essential services. The Secretariat had taken an incremental approach by beginning with smaller-scale initiatives such as iNeed, a collaborative effort among the Department of Management, the Department of Field Support, the Office of Information and Communications Technology and some field missions to consolidate ICT and facilities services. The value of customer relationship management would increase exponentially as it was rolled out to more functional areas and duty stations.

15. Lastly, the report contained a proposal for disaster recovery and business continuity planning, which the Secretariat required for continuous global operations in case of a disaster or emergency. The Assembly had stressed the importance of a holistic approach to business continuity management. The Office had therefore worked closely with the Business Continuity Management Unit to ensure that proposals were coordinated, with no duplication or overlap.

16. The proposals contained in the report supported the Organization's strategic and operational goals. Mindful of the current global financial situation, the Office had selected the projects with highest priority and had scrutinized funding requirements to ensure that only the most important needs were included. If deployed together and given consistent support and investment, enterprise content management, customer relationship management and disaster recovery and business continuity planning would significantly improve the Organization's effectiveness and efficiency.

17. **The Chairman** drew attention to the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit on the review of management of Internet websites in the United Nations system organizations (A/64/95) and on the review of information and communications technology (ICT) hosting services in the United Nations system organizations (A/64/96) and the notes by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination on the respective reports (A/64/95/Add.1 and A/64/96/Add.1).

18. **Ms. McLurg** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's report on information and communications technology (A/64/7/Add.9), noted that it concerned the revised estimates relating to the proposed programme budget for 2010-2011 for ICT activities (A/64/477) and the first progress report on the enterprise resource planning project (A/64/380). The revised estimates related to enterprise content management, customer relationship management and a proposal for a unified disaster recovery and business continuity plan.

19. In the Advisory Committee's view, the Secretary-General should have provided preliminary estimates on the requirements for the implementation of enterprise content management and customer relationship management in the proposed programme budget for 2010-2011. The Secretary-General's report (A/64/477) responded to the Assembly's request for information on the benefits expected and the full costs of implementation — which had begun before a full proposal had been presented to the Assembly — as well as the measures necessary to complete and maintain the systems. The Advisory Committee recommended that the Assembly should request information on the overall costs, across all funding sources, of the proposed implementation of the enterprise systems over a five-year period, together with further analysis of the expected and actual efficiency and productivity gains.

20. The Secretary-General was proposing to provide the human resources required for the biennium 2010-2011 through general temporary assistance and contractual services, pending the conclusion of the structural review of ICT in the Secretariat. Taking the view that further efforts could be made to use existing capacity and expertise, the Advisory Committee recommended approval of 7 of the 11 positions proposed for enterprise content management and a reduction of $1 million in the $8.1 million proposed under contractual services. For customer relationship management, it recommended approval of four of the five additional general temporary assistance positions proposed and a reduction of $500,000 in the $2 million proposed for expert services.

21. The Secretary-General was to submit a unified disaster recovery and business continuity plan in the context of the proposed programme budget for 2012-2013. In the current report (A/64/477), he proposed a framework for protecting the Organization's data and set out a number of activities to be undertaken in 2010-2011. The Advisory Committee recommended approval of the resources requested for a study on the classification and prioritization of ICT systems, including a business impact analysis to be carried out by the Business Continuity Management Unit at 12 duty stations. In its report, the Advisory Committee emphasized the need to ensure that disaster recovery requirements were based on objective needs and that the most cost-effective solutions were fully explored. It also recommended approval of resources to upgrade the data centre infrastructure at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi for site recovery and data protection. It was necessary to explore fully the possibilities for consolidating and using the most reliable and cost-effective solution for data storage, business continuity services and hosting of enterprise systems, as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 63/262. The Advisory Committee trusted that the Secretary-General would report to the Assembly on the results of his review and justify the cost-effectiveness of the sites selected for hosting the enterprise data centres.

22. Concerning the first progress report on the enterprise resource planning project (A/64/380), the Advisory Committee noted that potential productivity and efficiency gains would range from $134 million to $224 million annually. As the Secretary-General indicated that those productivity gains did not suggest a net decrease in posts or savings in staff costs but rather a potential to redirect resources towards higher-priority tasks, a more systematic and detailed approach to harvesting efficiency gains was required and the Secretary-General should identify the administrative resources that could be released through enterprise resource planning. Since administrative functions constituted a significant share of the Organization's overall activity, administrative reform should lead to reduced administrative burdens and costs.

23. Workforce planning should determine the critical skills and competencies required to align the Organization's staffing structure with its programmatic goals and evolving needs, taking into account the impact that ERP would have on administrative activities, including the low-value activities that would become redundant and the high-value tasks that might require new skills.

24. The Advisory Committee's report contained extensive comments on the implementation and deployment strategy. Some of the key elements driving implementation costs were the range of functions to be covered, whether they were introduced simultaneously or in phases and the number of deployments for rolling out the new system to all locations. The timeline of the IPSAS implementation would have to be adjusted in line with the revised timetable for the deployment of ERP.

25. The core functions for the management of financial, human and physical resources should be integrated into the ERP system, as the provision of such core functions through different systems would generate additional costs and perpetuate the fragmentation and weaknesses of current systems. The Enterprise Resource Planning Steering Committee should review all systems providing core management functions and ensure that their implementation was closely coordinated with the ERP project team.

26. The Advisory Committee's report provided an update of the project status and utilization of the funds already provided. A more detailed timeline of the project should be provided in future progress reports, showing, for each of the project's four phases, the key activities, milestones and deliverables, as well as the dependencies between the major activities and the resources required for each key activity. A baseline should be established for the project at the outset and updated in future annual reports, so as to provide a clear picture of the plan, progress made, outstanding activities and utilization of resources.

27. The overall resource requirements, which had risen to some $315.8 million, represented an estimate, since the contracts for software and system integration services had not yet been concluded. The main areas in which costs had changed were start-up operational costs; strengthening of the ERP project team with an additional 36 positions; greater involvement of subject matter experts and temporary assistance to fill their positions while they were assigned to the project; and change management and training, which would shift from a train-the-trainer approach to instructor-led training. It was important to involve the Organization's most knowledgeable staff in the design and

implementation of the system and to develop in-house expertise and knowledge. Every effort should be made to ensure the cost-effectiveness of the training strategy and methods and to adjust requirements in the light of experience and lessons learned.

28. While the Advisory Committee recommended acceptance of the Secretary-General's proposals for ERP resource requirements for 2010-2011, it also stressed that the Secretary-General should make every effort to reduce the overall costs and to use resources prudently. Future reports should contain details of the efforts made to contain costs, the project expenditures incurred and justification for the utilization of resources. Enhancements to existing systems to be replaced by ERP should be kept to a minimum.

29. In its report on the adoption of International Public Sector Accounting Standards by the United Nations (A/64/531), the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should take note of the Secretary-General's second progress report on the matter (A/64/355).

30. In its report on business continuity management (A/64/7/Add.8), which related to the relevant report of the Secretary-General (A/64/472), the Advisory Committee noted that the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 had not included a provision for the requirements related to business continuity management. In its view, preliminary estimates for those requirements should have been provided, as previously requested by the General Assembly.

31. The Advisory Committee recognized the importance of a planning capacity in the Organization to address business continuity issues. There was a need to raise awareness among all those concerned regarding their responsibility for business continuity management. Some operational capacity had been attained and progress had been achieved, but important tasks remained, as reflected in the programme of work for the upcoming biennium. Close coordination of business continuity policies among all United Nations entities was necessary: they must share and apply lessons learned and best practices and ensure a systematic approach encompassing both peacekeeping and humanitarian operations in the field. Coordination of all actors involved and cooperation with host country authorities at all duty stations would also be important for ensuring the effectiveness of business continuity.

32. Considering that some of the proposed functions could be provided through redeployment or the use of existing tools, the Advisory Committee recommended acceptance of 8 posts, on a temporary basis for the biennium 2010-2011, out of the 17 posts requested. Business continuity capacity should be evaluated at the end of that period and a progress report should be submitted showing what had been achieved and how tasks and operations had been incorporated into existing organizational structures.

33. Some of the posts requested for the Medical Services Division were related to reform and reorientation of the Division's work programme rather than to business continuity management. Taking the view that such reorientation should be presented and justified in the context of the Secretary-General's proposed programme budget, the Advisory Committee recommended acceptance of one of the five posts proposed.

34. A large share of the proposed non-post resources related to the development of telecommuting capabilities and remote access for staff and the acquisition of medical and other supplies for use by critical staff during a pandemic or other crisis. While telecommuting was one of the key mitigation strategies for ensuring continuity of the Organization's critical functions, some of the services proposed were already part of the capacity and ongoing responsibilities of the Office of Information and Communications Technology. The same could be said of the provision for miscellaneous services proposed under general operating expenses for the Office of Central Support Services. The Advisory Committee therefore recommended reductions of $500,000 and $163,500 in the related resources proposed under contractual services and general operating expenses, respectively.

35. **Mr. Elhag** (Sudan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group would request the Secretariat to clarify certain issues during the informal consultations.

36. **Mr. Råsbrant** (Sweden), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; and, in addition, Armenia, the

Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that the European Union would consider carefully the Secretary-General's request for significant resources for the ERP project from the regular budget and the support account, given the need to contain costs. It agreed with the Advisory Committee on the need for a more systematic and detailed approach to harvesting efficiency gains from the project. In that connection, the project's quantitative and qualitative benefits should be clearly identified. It urged the Secretariat to continue to keep customization of the system to a minimum and to ensure that investment in other information systems, such as the new talent management system, were fully compatible with the ERP system.

37. **Ms. White** (Australia), speaking also on behalf of Canada and New Zealand, said that the Organization must achieve a global, coherent, rational and harmonized approach to ICT, addressing the fragmentation of existing systems, programmes and services; recognizing the importance of end-users, particularly those in the field; and also emphasizing accountability and oversight.

38. Recalling that the Committee had approved the introduction of an ERP system in 2006, she said that, as the current proposals were accompanied by substantial funding requirements, the three delegations would judge whether they were reasonable and appropriate, making sure that audit trails, markers of progress and justification for resources were present.

39. While the proposed business continuity management initiatives were necessary, the delegations shared the Advisory Committee's disappointment at the failure to include preliminary estimates for them in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011. They also favoured establishing the business continuity unit not in the Office of Central Support Services, but in the Department of Management itself. They hoped that the Secretariat would continue to pursue efficiency and productivity gains and cost savings in connection with the secondary data centre associated with the capital master plan.

40. **Mr. Shin** Boo-nam (Republic of Korea) said that timely investment in ICT would improve efficiency, effectiveness, accountability and credibility throughout the United Nations system. In view of the lessons learned from successful e-government initiatives in the Republic of Korea, he believed that the new ICT strategy should be accompanied by strong leadership and support on the part of managers and the active involvement of all stakeholders in every stage of system development.

41. Investment in ICT would not address all of the Organization's administrative, programming and peacekeeping support issues or meet all the needs of the Member States. Taking the view that business process re-engineering and a structural change in the working and thinking process of the staff were also required, he hoped that the Secretariat would report regularly to the Member States on progress in both ICT and business process re-engineering.

42. While the report of the Secretary-General (A/64/380) provided information on ERP benefits and resource requirements, it did not give a full picture. The Secretariat should indicate the entire life cycle cost of ERP, including not only the initial project cost and operating cost, but also all operating and potential upgrade costs incurred after full deployment of the system. The Secretariat should also seek more concrete efficiency gains, such as staffing reductions and cost savings, that could be reflected in budgets for future bienniums. In the current economic downturn, additional resource requirements for ERP could be justified only if the benefits, adjusted by an appropriate discount rate, exceeded the project's life cycle costs.

43. **Mr. Rashkow** (United States of America) said that any organization with the worldwide reach of the United Nations must have an effective and dependable information management system. However, despite past investment in new technology platforms and software upgrades, the current system was fragmented and reactive and often failed to deliver the promised benefits. The proposed four-year ERP project was costly and required strong leadership to ensure completion on time and within budget. His delegation concurred with the Advisory Committee's view that the ERP initiative should be approved on the basis of a "pilot first" approach whereby the system would be deployed initially to pilot sites, and then to the rest of the Organization, as cost-effectively as possible.

44. **Mr. Okochi** (Japan) said that, as the Advisory Committee had recommended, the ERP project's potential productivity and efficiency gains and operating cost should be analysed in more detail. While the revised budget estimates for the ERP project included start-up operating costs, the previous budget

estimates had not, pointing to a lack of coordination among the relevant departments and offices or less-than-rigorous project planning and management. When the Secretariat requested additional resources, as in the current case, the costs concerned should be considered part of the overall cost of the project to be approved by the General Assembly.

45. Without the active support of senior management and all staff, the ERP project risked being a waste of money. In addition, if the project did not have genuine budgetary benefits, that large investment in it would be difficult to justify. Accordingly, the Secretary-General should report periodically on the specific costs and posts against which savings were achieved, so that the General Assembly could make informed decisions about the use of the resources so released.

46. **Mr. Gübler** (Switzerland), speaking also on behalf of Liechtenstein, said that, because of the considerable investment involved in ICT projects, strict budgetary discipline was required. However, those projects should not be delayed. Reducing ICT investment in 2010-2011 would lead to higher costs at a later stage and would delay realization of the projects' benefits. Postponing the introduction of the ERP system would mean spending more on maintaining and even upgrading outdated and incompatible systems that were destined for replacement in any case. It should also be remembered that the ERP system was a precondition for improvements in procurement, results-based budgeting, cost accounting, business continuity and disaster recovery, and the introduction of IPSAS. During the informal consultations, the two delegations wished to receive further details of the implementation timetable, business process re-engineering and potential cost savings.

Economic and Social Council, Human Rights Council and United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (A/63/853; A/64/7/Add.1, Add.3 and Add.7, A/64/270, A/64/344, A/64/353 and A/64/511)

47. **Ms. Van Buerle** (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division), introducing the note by the Secretary-General transmitting a request for a subvention to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (A/64/270), said that the General Assembly was invited to approve a subvention to the Institute of $558,200 (before recosting) from the regular budget for the biennium 2010-2011, provision for which had been included under section 4, Disarmament, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium.

48. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2009 (A/64/344), she said that the related additional requirements of $19,100 for conference servicing under the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 would be absorbed under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the programme budget for that biennium. For the biennium 2010-2011, it was proposed that additional requirements totalling $167,800 for conference servicing and travel should be met from within section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management; section 9, Economic and social affairs; and section 16, International drug control, crime and terrorism prevention and criminal justice, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011. Accordingly, as no additional appropriations were sought over and above the level of funding approved in the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 or proposed for the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011, the General Assembly was invited to take note of the report and approve the modifications to the proposed programme of work described therein.

49. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its tenth and eleventh sessions (A/64/353), she said that it was the first report to be presented in accordance with the Advisory Committee's recommendation, which had subsequently been endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 63/263, that such revised estimates should be submitted annually.

50. The requirements resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted at the Human Rights Council's twelfth session, held in September/October 2009, would be presented in the next annual report so that the General Assembly would have adequate time to consider them. In connection with the revised estimates resulting from resolution S-9/1 adopted at the Human Rights Council's ninth special session (A/63/853), the Secretary-General maintained the view expressed in the proposed programme budget (A/64/6, para. 23.15)

that further experience was required before a comprehensive review of the additional resources associated with mandates arising from special missions authorized by the Human Rights Council could be undertaken and a proposal made in that regard.

51. The revised estimates of $1,884,500 for the biennium 2008-2009 were considered additional requirements that would be met from within the resources already appropriated and reported on in the context of the second performance report for the 2008-2009 programme budget, which the Committee would shortly be considering. Of the total revised estimate of $3,659,000 for the biennium 2010-2011, $824,700 was included in the proposed programme budget as relating to activities of a perennial nature and the remaining $2,834,300 would be met, to the extent possible, from within the requirements already proposed for the biennium. The General Assembly was invited to take note of those arrangements.

52. **Ms. McLurg** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the related reports of the Advisory Committee (A/64/7/Add.1, Add.3 and Add.7), said that the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should approve the request for a subvention for the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, for which provision had already been made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011. It had no objection to the course of action proposed by the Secretary-General in relation to the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2009. As to the revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council, the Advisory Committee recommended that the additional requirements relating to the implementation of resolution S-9/1 should be accommodated from within the resources appropriated under the programme budget for 2008-2009. With respect to the resolutions and decisions adopted at the tenth and eleventh sessions, the Advisory Committee noted that no additional appropriations would be required and therefore recommended that the General Assembly should take note of the revised estimates relating to those sessions (A/64/353).

53. **Ms. Ahlenius** (Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services) said that the audit of conference services put at the disposal of the Human Rights Council in 2009, undertaken in response to General Assembly resolution 63/284 and presented in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on that subject (A/64/511), had concluded that insufficient resources had been made available to the Division of Conference Management of the United Nations Office at Geneva. The Division had been unable to provide services to the Human Rights Council while maintaining its existing services for other clients in Geneva.

54. While the Human Rights Council was authorized to request conference services on an "as required" basis, existing resource allocation mechanisms were unable to cope with those demands. OIOS recommended a review to determine what level of permanent capacity the Division of Conference Management needed in order to maintain flexibility in dealing with fluctuations in the volume and timing of document processing. Moreover, coordination and collaboration between the Division and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) should be improved through the designation of focal points and the conduct of regular meetings and outreach activities. OHCHR agreed with the OIOS recommendation that, in order to ensure timely processing of its documents, it should submit them to the Division of Conference Management in accordance with the 10-week rule.

55. **Mr. Elhag** (Sudan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that his Group supported approval of the full amount of the subvention to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research. The necessary resources should be allocated to implement all resolutions and decisions of intergovernmental United Nations organs that dealt with development, including the Economic and Social Council. In that connection, the role of the Committee for Programme and Coordination in reviewing programmatic changes to the budget should be emphasized. The Group was concerned at the OIOS findings regarding conference services for the Human Rights Council in 2009. The Secretary-General should monitor closely the financial situation of the Human Rights Council and alert the General Assembly, whenever required, to the Council's resource needs in connection with its mandated activities, particularly the universal periodic review.

Agenda item 154: Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (*continued*)
(A/C.5/64/L.5)

Draft resolution A/C.5/64/L.5: Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia

56. *Draft resolution A/C.5/64/L.5 was adopted.*

The meeting rose at 11.50 a.m.